Stetson University College of Law

LL.M. in International Law

Designed for U.S. law graduates and internationally trained lawyers

STETSON LAW
“At Stetson, we understand the need to prepare our students to practice in the global marketplace. We strive to establish an environment of respect for foreign cultures and legal systems by providing opportunities for our students to benefit personally and professionally from our programs. International understanding will enhance their legal knowledge whether they choose to practice law in the United States or abroad.”

— John F. Cooper
Associate Dean for International Programs and Professor of Law
LL.M. in International Law

With more than 150 alumni hailing from 50 countries, Stetson’s LL.M. in International Law serves as a hub for domestic and foreign lawyers seeking advanced careers in business, government, education or the law on a global scale. Our program is an intensive one-year course of study for those interested in international public law or international private law.

Stetson’s rigorous curriculum consists of a wide range of doctrinal courses, practical skills classes, internships, courses designed specifically for foreign lawyers, and electives on a variety of topics. The program emphasizes the professional, leadership and business skills necessary to succeed in the global marketplace and offers a unique, multicultural experience in a close-knit community setting. Stetson’s LL.M. program accommodates the varying needs of our diverse student body, which includes both practicing attorneys and recent law graduates.

A Relevant Legal Education

Stetson is a dynamic and supportive scholarly community committed to teaching, mentoring, skills training and providing students with a transformative educational experience. Our goal is to educate lawyers who will not only serve ethically and competently in the practice of law and related professions, but who will also contribute to making a better world.

Personal attention to student needs is one of the hallmarks of Stetson’s educational philosophy. Because our faculty and staff are committed to a caring environment for personal and professional growth, students quickly find themselves woven into the fabric of this close-knit community.

An active student body provides social and moral support, while professors offer academic and professional guidance. Stetson offers small classes and a vibrant campus life with diverse student organizations, interscholastic activities and competitions. Stetson features state-of-the-art courtrooms, classrooms and library facilities in an idyllic climate and environment.

Stetson’s Dolly & Homer Hand Law Library features a wealth of legal resources and has a dedicated librarian for international reference materials. A prestigious International Advisory Council advises the LL.M. program to ensure it remains aware of and responsive to the needs of the profession.

“My Stetson education provided me the necessary foundation for a rewarding career in this growing global environment. Attending the summer program at The Hague was one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career.”

— Sarah Moses LL.M. ’10
The Royal Netherlands Embassy, Washington, D.C.

“Stetson’s LL.M. program had great professors, skill-oriented classes and helpful people. A program like this is key for those lawyers who want to have a comprehensive understanding of today’s global world and want to have an active role in it. When I got back to Colombia, I received job offers from important law firms, and after two weeks of being in the country, I had a good job at one of the world’s biggest freight forwarders.”

— Camila Fernandez de Soto LL.M. ’10
Contract Administrator for Panalpina in Bogota, Colombia

“Stetson’s LL.M. courses provided a tremendous advantage to my career. The atmosphere is great. Even on the beach, I had to read my casebooks to keep up with the amount of knowledge I was acquiring every day. I passed the New York State Bar on my first attempt, and I now run my own practice in the heart of Manhattan.”

— Pawel T. Sabaj LL.M. ’10
Home country: Poland; Sabaj & Associates, P.C., New York

“Stetson’s LL.M. in International Law program is a must-take. I would highly recommend it to others.”

— Golf-Chachavech Sukitjavanich LL.M. ’02
Judge, Royal Court for Justice Bangkok, Thailand
A STRONG FOUNDATION in INTERNATIONAL LAW

Duration and Course Load
Candidates for the LL.M. degree must satisfactorily complete at least two full academic semesters (fall and spring) of in-residence coursework on Stetson University College of Law’s campus for a total of at least 24 credit hours. Most LL.M. courses provide three semester hours of credit. Students may enroll in most elective courses on a space-available basis, provided they also enroll in the required curriculum as scheduled. The total course load must not exceed 17 hours per semester.

Part-Time LL.M. Program
Some of the best candidates for an LL.M. degree in International Law are practicing lawyers who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to pursue full-time graduate study. Stetson welcomes the wealth of practical experience they bring to the pursuit of academic excellence. Applicants to the part-time program are subject to the same rigorous admission standards as applicants to the full-time program. Part-time students must complete the same required curriculum prescribed for full-time students, although the sequence and timing of their courses may vary. Part-time students are allowed a full three-year period to complete all requirements for the degree.

International Connections
LL.M. students have many opportunities to make valuable connections with legal scholars and practitioners from foreign countries. Stetson has developed academic relationships with law schools around the globe, creating a dynamic exchange of scholarly visits and academic events. Professors, judges, government representatives and scholars from other countries often visit Stetson’s campus. Delegations and scholars have visited from Argentina, Armenia, the Bahamas, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Introductory Program for Foreign Attorneys
For foreign-trained attorneys enrolled in the LL.M. program, Stetson offers a special two-week orientation program designed to facilitate the process of understanding and overcoming the challenges of studying law in a different legal and educational system. This program provides foreign students with the necessary tools to help them succeed in a U.S. law school.

Admission Requirements
U.S. students may apply to enter in the fall or spring semesters; international students generally enter in the fall only. Applicants for admission to the LL.M. program must have received their first law degree at a law school accredited either by the American Bar Association or by the appropriate accrediting authority in their respective countries.

Pictured above: Luz Estella Nagle, Professor of Law and International Speaker
All applicants must demonstrate strong academic achievement and be proficient in the English language. Applicants whose native language is not English must achieve an acceptable TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score to be eligible for Stetson’s LL.M. program.

**TOEFL** = score at least a 79 (internet-based) or 550 (paper-based)

**IELTS** = score at least a 6.0

*Stetson’s TOEFL codes are Institution “5630” and Department “03”

**Career Development**

Stetson’s firm commitment to helping students achieve their goals is reflected in its strong career development program. The Office of Career Development offers Stetson students the tools to develop a comprehensive employment strategy as they enter the legal workforce. To ensure that students and graduates are equipped with current job search skills, they provide individual counseling in addition to group seminars and workshops on subjects ranging from interviewing techniques to cover letter writing and résumé design.

The Office of Career Development advises students and alumni on strategies and tactics for securing legal and law-related employment. Their office maintains extensive online job listings, available to Stetson students and alumni. Our growing pool of Stetson LL.M. graduates also serves as a great networking resource for those seeking international employment.

**Requirements for Practicing Law in the United States**

Foreign attorneys who wish to practice law in the U.S. should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the Board of Bar Examiners in the state they wish to practice. Completion of the LL.M. degree in itself does not guarantee eligibility to take a bar examination. Please visit the National Conference of Bar Examiners website at [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org) and click on the “Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements” link.

*Foreign students are advised that admission to the bar in Florida and most other states requires a J.D. degree from an ABA-accredited U.S. law school.*

**Recommended Electives**

- Advanced Legal Research
- Caribbean Law Internship
- Comparative European and U.S. Law
- European Union Business Law
- Human Trafficking
- Immigration Clinic
- Immigration Law
- Immigration Litigation & Advocacy
- International Business Transactions
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Human Rights
- International Intellectual Property
- International Sales Law and Arbitration
- International Taxation
- International Trade Regulation
- Legal Drafting

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**Required Courses**

- International Litigation and Arbitration
- International Law
- Practical Skills Requirement
- U.S. Legal Research and Writing*
- U.S. Legal Systems*

*Students holding U.S. law degrees are exempt from these requirements. They should take elective courses to complete the number of credits.*
**Study Abroad Options**

Spring entrants and part-time LL.M. students may participate in Stetson’s summer abroad programs. Through these programs, students earn academic credit in beautiful locales, meet local officials, and tour nearby legal and government institutions.

**Autumn in London:** Students spend a full semester taking classes and working in competitive internships in the heart of London. With the University of Tulsa, Stetson offers a 13-week semester program taught by American and British faculty. In the past, internships have included positions with the Crown Prosecutor’s Office, Amnesty, Fair Trials Abroad and the 2012 Olympic Committee, as well as with solicitors and barristers.

**Foreign-Exchange Programs:** Stetson has formal agreements with the Universidad de Granada in Spain, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Mexico, and Université de Toulouse in France for students to attend law school for up to one year at one of these institutions.

**Summer-Abroad Programs:** Students have an opportunity to learn about international law, meet with high-level government officials and tour legal and government institutions in one of Stetson’s summer-abroad programs in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Tianjin, China; The Hague, Netherlands, with Lausanne/Geneva, Switzerland; or Granada, Spain.

**Winter-Break Institute on Caribbean Law:** Students travel to George Town in the Cayman Islands in early January for a two-week program housed at Cayman Islands Law School.

**Spring-Break Travel:** Each spring break, a professor leads a small class in international legal study. Recent destinations have included Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, Scotland and Greece.

**International Internships**

Select students in Stetson’s U.K., Spain and Argentina programs can participate in legal internships with non-governmental organizations, courts and government law offices.
Few places in the world can compete with Stetson’s main law campus as an idyllic environment for the study of law. Inside the walls of this former 1920s resort in Gulfport/St. Petersburg, you’ll find classrooms and courtrooms equipped with sophisticated technology. Stetson’s award-winning law library attracts legal scholars from around the world with its comprehensive digital and print collections, as well as its comfortable study areas. Stetson offers LL.M. students a variety of housing options, including on-campus dorm rooms and nearby apartments and houses patrolled by security officers.

The active yet relaxing Florida lifestyle is an ideal counterpoint to the rigors of academic study. As part of the Tampa Bay metropolitan area, Stetson offers you access to one of Florida’s most vibrant business and legal communities, and positions you in a thriving cultural center with numerous environmental and international opportunities.

The St. Petersburg/Gulfport area boasts magnificent beaches, palm-lined boulevards and sunshine throughout the year. Relax to live music or discover a variety of different cuisines at one of the many restaurants and clubs on the beach or downtown. Refine your tennis stroke or golf swing. Attend a spring training game. Or enjoy cultural pursuits at the Florida International or Salvador Dalí museums.

Tampa offers Busch Gardens theme park and animal preserve, the Florida Aquarium, and the nightlife of historic Ybor City and Channelside. The Tampa Bay area also is rich in parks, biking paths, soccer fields, fishing piers, boating, shopping, marinas and golf courses. The temperate climate allows you to enjoy these activities year round. Tampa Bay is home to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tampa Bay Lightning and Tampa Bay Rays. The Tampa Convention Center hosts numerous national and international conventions and conferences.

Stetson’s Gulfport campus is located two hours away from Orlando and less than five hours from Miami.

**EXPERIENCE**

summer-abroad programs in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Tianjin, China; The Hague, Netherlands, with Lausanne/Geneva, Switzerland; or Granada, Spain.

Pictured left, Stetson students visiting Granada, Spain
- Two-week introductory program for foreign-trained attorneys
- Ranked No. 1 for trial advocacy and No. 3 in legal writing
- World, national, regional and state champion advocacy teams
- Accelerated J.D. program for foreign lawyers
- Three academic law journals, including two with an international focus
- Accomplished international law professors and welcoming team of mentors to guide LL.M. students
- State-of-the-art library, courtrooms and classrooms
- Pro bono service provides extraordinary opportunity for immersion in the values of the American legal culture
- LL.M. student delegation in Tampa Bay Area Committee on Foreign Relations
- International reference librarian for research support
- Research assistant and internship opportunities
- Professional Success Workshop series for LL.M. students
- Frequent lectures, academic success workshops and cultural events

The College of Law is part of Stetson University, with a College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business Administration, and School of Music in DeLand, Florida. A university satellite center in Celebration offers advanced degrees.